Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method of identifying and/or verifying hardware and/or software of an appliance and of a data carrier which is provided to cooperate with the appliance, the method comprising ~~the following steps~~:

transmitting first authorization data of the hardware and/or software to a first ~~unit~~ unit,

comparing the first authorization data of the hardware and/or software that has been transmitted to the first unit with first verification data stored in the first ~~unit~~ unit,

authorizing the hardware and/or software once it has been ascertained that there is coincidence between the first authorization data provided by the hardware and/or software and the first verification data stored in the first ~~unit~~ unit,

transmitting second authorization data of a data carrier to a second ~~unit~~ unit,

comparing the second authorization data in the second unit with second verification data stored in the second ~~unit~~ unit, and

authorizing the data carrier if there is coincidence between the second authorization data and the second verification data stored in the second ~~unit~~ unit,

wherein a direct data exchange is carried out between the first unit and the second ~~unit~~ unit.

2.   (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the direct data exchange between the first unit and the second unit comprises a transmission of encrypted data and a comparison and/or decryption of data transmitted between the first unit and the second ~~unit~~ unit.

3.   (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data exchange between the first unit and the second unit is carried out prior to an identification and/or verification of first authorization data of the hardware and/or software and of second authorization data of the data ~~carrier~~ carrier.

4.   (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a central arithmetic unit of the first unit and a central arithmetic unit of the second unit jointly access at least one ROM memory one RAM memory and/or one non-volatile ~~memory~~ memory.

5.   (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein encryption of the first authorization data and of the second authorization data is carried out in the first unit and in the second ~~unit~~ unit.

6.   (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second authorization data are obtained from a smartcard or a tag or a label that forms the data ~~carrier~~ carrier.

7.   (currently amended) A circuit for identifying and/or verifying hardware and/or software of an appliance and of a data carrier which is provided to cooperate with the appliance, the circuit comprising:

       a first unit for identifying and/or verifying the hardware and/or software of the appliance, comprising a central arithmetic unit and at least one memory and an interface to the hardware and/or software that is to be identified and/or verified, and

       a second unit comprising a central arithmetic unit and at least one memory and an interface to an external data carrier and also an interface to the hardware and/or software,

       wherein a communication interface is provided between the central arithmetic units of the first unit and the second ~~unit~~ unit.

8.   (currently amended) A circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein the memories of the first unit and of the second unit are formed by a ROM memory and a RAM memory and/or a non-volatile ~~memory~~ memory.

9.   (currently amended) A circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein the ROM memories and/or the RAM memories and/or the non-volatile memories of the first unit and of the second unit are in each case combined to form a common ROM memory and/or a common RAM memory and/or a common non-volatile memory memory.

10.   (currently amended) A circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first unit and the second unit in each case comprise an encryption device device.

11.   (previously presented) A circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein the central arithmetic unit of the first unit and the central arithmetic unit of the second unit are combined to form a common central arithmetic unit which common central arithmetic unit has the integrated communication interface, and wherein the common central arithmetic unit is connected by an interface to the hardware and/or software that is to be identified and/or verified.

12.   (currently amended) A circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein the interface to the external data carrier is designed for contactless communication with the external data carrier carrier.

13.   (previously presented) A circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein the external data carrier is formed by a smartcard or a tag or a label.

14.   (currently amended) An appliance which comprises as hardware at least one central arithmetic unit which central arithmetic unit is designed to run software and to obtain data from an external data carrier cooperating with the appliance, wherein a circuit as claimed in claim 7 is coupled to the central arithmetic unit unit.

15.   (previously presented) An appliance as claimed in claim 14, wherein the central arithmetic unit of the appliance is coupled via an interface integrated in the central arithmetic unit of the appliance to the circuit integrated in the central arithmetic unit.